

Claims:

1. A skin treatment composition comprising an extract of *Mahonia aquifolium* in a liposome delivery system.
- 5 2. A skin treatment composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the extract of *Mahonia aquifolium* is present in a concentration of from 5% to 20% by weight of the total composition.
- 10 3. A skin treatment composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the extract of *Mahonia aquifolium* is present in a concentration of 10% by weight of the total composition.
4. A process for obtaining an extract of *Mahonia aquifolium* comprising the steps of:
 - 15 (a) applying heat and pressure to a mixture of water, alcohol and crude dried *Mahonia aquifolium*;
 - (b) stirring the mixture;
 - (c) processing the mixture at a speed of about 3000rpm for about three hours;
 - 20 (d) allowing the mixture to cool under pressure for at least 24 hours;
 - (e) repeating the last two steps at least twice more;
 - (f) releasing the pressure;
 - 25 (g) placing the mixture under vacuum with heating and mixing to reduce and remove the alcohol and water

to obtain a mixture of approximately 6% by volume;
and

(h) filtering the resulting mixture to obtain the
extract of *Mahonia aquifolium*.

- 5 5. The method of claim 4 wherein in step (a) the mixture is
heated to a temperature of not higher than 50°C.
6. The method of claim 4 wherein in step (a) the mixture is
heated to a temperature of 40°C.
7. The method of claim 4 wherein the pressure is in a range
10 of about 3 to 6 psi.
8. An extract of *Mahonia aquifolium* obtained by the process
of claim 4.
9. Method of treating psoriasis, eczema and other dry skin
15 conditions by applying the skin treatment composition of
claim 1.